

**Town Hall Meeting Summary
March 4, 2010
Charleston Heights Arts Center**

Attendance

Mayor Oscar B. Goodman
Councilwoman Tarkanian
Betsy Fretwell
Department Directors

Summary of Event

There were approximately 150 participants in attendance. Following the presentation by the City Manager, written questions were moderated and are indicated below.

Audience questions included the following:

1. Is there any possibility of re-opening Neonopolis and the Galaxy Theater?
2. What about the cuts to the library system?
3. Would like to show support for the art conservatory.
4. A participant thanked the Mayor for his continued support of arts, culture, and the Rainbow Theater Company.
5. What does the City have in the CHCC as far as amenities that can support the Rainbow Company?
6. A participant express concern for kids in the downtown, when downtown community centers may be closed.
7. Don't consider closing Reed Whipple, what can we do to persuade you to keep it open?
8. What are you going to do with Reed Whipple if you close it down?
9. Would it cost more to maintain a multiplicity of programs as opposed to keeping them in the Center?
10. When asked about keeping Reed Whipple open, the Entire audience indicated support for keeping it open.
11. A participant expressed concern about keeping the adaptive recreation program open.

12. A comment was made comparing the City's funding of arts and culture as less than other major cities.

The following were questions/suggestions/comments that were provided and will be included in the public record.

Questions Regarding Reed Whipple Cultural Center

13. The city is seeking to lure folks to move into the downtown area, the Reed Whipple is a place appropriate for couples and families alike. Offer nonprofit organizations opportunities to use the center at low rates and encourage families and local merchants to participate.
14. What is the real reason you want to close Reed Whipple is it unsafe?
15. How much money will be saved by closing Reed Whipple? Allow private fundraisers to support the operation and cost of the RW center.
16. The Rainbow Company and Las Vegas Youth Orchestra have very specific needs, currently met by the RW Center. How does the city plan to relocate these programs while maintaining the integrity of their operations?
17. If RW closes what other options do you have in mind as a home for the Las Vegas Youth Orchestra?
18. The extreme sports programs are great, lots of kids participate, please do not eliminate them. By eliminating these programs the kids will no longer have constructive activities to engage in.
19. The city has great senior centers. For some seniors just a hello from city employees makes their day. The cost of 2\$ a year is very low, why not increase it 12\$ a year. Individuals with hardships could be evaluated. Estimating 20,000 members @ 12\$ a year can bring the city 200,000 dollars.
20. The RW center is a place away from home. I currently leave 70 miles from Las Vegas and I make trip to the center for rehearsal and adequate storage of expensive music equipment.
21. My son is part of the Las Vegas Orchestra and I'm concerned about the youths that will not have a place to express their talent. Reduce the hours and seek volunteers to avoid the closure of the center.

22. Given the results of the “you’re City, Your way” focus group. How does the city intend to satisfy participant’s desires for increase programs for youths with the closure of RW Center?
23. With the proposed closure of the RW center, the Rainbow Company Youth orchestra will be left without a home. How will the city ensure the future of these programs?
24. The RW Center is in use the LVYO and RBC seven days a week. How can the city satisfy the closure of RWC when other city facilities are not frequently used?
25. The RW Center is located in what is considered a risk area. As its not eligible for special funds that could cover all its costs, but may make it feasible to operate with a modified schedule.
26. With the future closure of the RW Center, young musicians in the valley will suffer.
27. We would like the RW Center to be kept open, no other facility can accommodate the Rainbow Orchestra.
28. Please do not close the TAC program, it’s a great program that provides wonderful summer camps and parents with very much need child care needs.
29. How Does the City intend to provide the Rainbow Comp.? With the same resources at RW Center if it’s closed down?
30. As a tax payer I would like to see RW Center to remain open, it provides the community with much needed programs.
31. The RW Center has served our community for over 30 yrs. What is the motivation behind cutting services?
32. Does the city have plans to relocate all the programs currently at the RW center?
33. We have many talented musicians participating at the RW Center, what is the real reason for the closure?
34. What is going to happen to the building where the RW Center is now when it closes?
35. The RW Center should be preserved as a historical and cultural icon for the city of Las Vegas.

36. We need to stop destroying our history in the city. A citizen committee needs to be implemented to work and raise the necessary funds to keep the RW Center open.
37. Is the closure of RW Center only a proposal and if so why have some employees been laid off?
38. Keep the RW Center open. Expand the programs to other centers and work with the school district for other options.
39. Why are there funds for other project such as the new city hall and the Mob Museum? Be transparent to voters and tell us where the money is really going?
40. Please keep the RW Center open and evaluate their hours of operations instead.
41. Have other center been considered for closure instead of the RW Center?
42. If the unions agree to the pay cut, will the RW Center still close?
43. Would changing the annual fees for the programs at RW Center be an option to closing the center?
44. Mayor, you should be ashamed of the closing of the RW Center, when it provides cultural needs for our community.
45. What does the closure of the center mean for all the programs at the center?
46. I understand the city's financial problems but too many positions are being eliminated from the office of Cultural Affairs.
47. Only 10% of the city budget is allocated to towards the arts, how much can you expect to gain from closing the center?
48. How do you justify the closing RW Center when results from survey focus group in favor to keep more youth programs in the community?

Questions regarding the Budget

49. If the budget deficit is less than the projected 31 million, will the city hire back the laid off employees?
50. The Mayor said if we took an 8% pay cut, there would be no layoffs, is this true?

51. The Mayor said 8% pay cut and no lay off, Betsy Fretwell said the opposite. Everyone should be on the same page, especially because there are peoples job on the line. Perhaps this is why the city is in the state that's it in. No one communicates to each other.
52. Have all the unions come to the table to account for their departments and have all options such as furloughs, pay cuts been examined? Save jobs by using other methods to save money, such are cutting consulting fees and Council spending.
53. When is tier 3 happening?
54. Please investigate the present CEA contract and how the employee elimination process is being handled. Employees should be aware of the criteria used in selecting used in eliminating employees in their departments.
55. Is there a special % tax going towards building and parks. Is this a built in current property tax rate?
56. Building the new city hall is not planning in the success of the future. The economy might not take a turn and we will be in the hole already!
57. Is building the new city hall the best thing to do know? Couldn't some of the funds used to keep senior centers and other center open?
58. Neva seems to be getting deeper into the hole. How come there are no talks of raising taxes?
59. As a developer and contractor doing business for the city I believe there are some areas that need reductions...Planning, Public Works and Purchasing. All of these departments have has significant reductions in work load and staffing needs to be addressed.
60. Is there any way for all local governments to unite for matter such as purchasing common items to get better prices?
61. Please tell us who funds the Neon Grave Yard? Could these funds be better spent to preserve city services?
62. The years of service before retiring need to be measured and max. Retirement salary needs to be decreased. We should look into reducing the percent that city employees can retire at.

Miscellaneous

63. Why not promote family outings to 51's games at Cashman Fields? How can we attract more professional teams at a new stadium, when we have low attendance at Cashman Field?
64. Why do we need a private EMS as well as a fire and Rescue?
65. Post the questions and answers on the web.
66. Down town should not be the only place to take a cut. Why are you making it more difficult by closing the few spaces available to the arts and culture?
67. Please do not reduce safety (police/security) including in the jails.
68. How are you going to keep the fire fighters from scamming the overtime like the County fire fighters are doing?
69. If over time has been cut how do you explain the 11 million for the fire fighters? Can't something be done about their schedules, other cities have 3 shifts, why don't we?